

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 13 and 18-22, and add new claim 25 as shown below.

Listing of the Claims:

1 (Original). A method for the manufacture of a tubular spacer for bone defects, the spacer comprising a first rim on its first end and a second rim on its opposite second end, the method comprising:

providing a cylindrical body having open ends, each end having a rim;

modifying at least one end of the cylindrical body to change its cross sectional area.

2 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a rim of the cylindrical body.

3 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a section of the body adjacent to the first rim with the expansion commencing at the first end.

4 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises narrowing a rim of the cylindrical body.

5 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises narrowing a section of the body adjacent to the first rim with the expansion commencing at the first end.

6 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding the first rim of the cylindrical and narrowing the second rim of the cylindrical body.

7 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a first section of the body adjacent to the first rim with the expansion commencing at the first end and narrowing a second section of the body adjacent to the second rim with the expansion commencing at the second end.

8 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a first section of the body adjacent to the first rim with the expansion commencing at the first end and expanding a second section of the body adjacent to the second rim with the expansion commencing at the second end.

9 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises narrowing a first section of the body adjacent to the first rim with the expansion commencing at the first end and narrowing a second section of the body adjacent to the second rim with the expansion commencing at the second end.

10 (Original). A method according to claim 1, further comprising shaping the cross-section of the first rim to differ from the cross-section of the second rim.

11 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a first section of the body by pushing-in a mandrel.

12 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying step comprises expanding a first section of the body by pushing the first end into a hollow die.

13 (Currently amended). A spacer for bone defects comprising a tubular body having a first end, a first rim at the first end, a second end, a second rim at the second end, a longitudinal axis, a perimeter defining a jacket wall extending in the direction of the axis, a first body section adjacent the first rim and a second body section adjacent the second rim, wherein a plane tangent to the jacket wall of the first body section intersects the longitudinal axis.

14 (Original). The spacer of claim 13, wherein the jacket wall comprises a plurality of recesses.

15 (Original). The spacer of claim 14, wherein the recesses are rhomboid shaped recesses.

16 (Original). The spacer of claim 14, wherein the rhomboid-shaped recesses are arranged in groups such that the recesses in a group are adjacent to each other in the direction of the circumference.

17 (Original). The spacer according to Claim 16, wherein the jacket wall comprises the shape of a rhomboid lattice.

18 (Currently amended). The spacer of claim 13, wherein the tangent plane forms an angle with the longitudinal longitudinal-axis that diverges in a direction of the first end.

19 (Currently amended). The spacer of claim 13, wherein the tangent plane forms an angle with the longitudinal longitudinal-axis that converges in a direction of the first end.

20 (Currently amended). The spacer according to claim 13, wherein the tangent plane forms an angle with the longitudinal longitudinal-axis that diverges in a direction of the first end and wherein a second plane, which is tangent to the jacket wall of the second body section, intersects the longitudinal axis, the second tangent plane forming an angle with the longitudinal longitudinal-axis that converges in a direction of the first end.

21 (Currently amended). A method for connecting two bone parts, the method comprising:

providing a length of tubular spacer sufficient to connect the bone parts, the spacer comprising a tubular body having a first end, a first rim at the first end, a second end, a second rim at the second end, a longitudinal longitudinal axis, a perimeter defining a jacket wall extending in the direction of the axis, a first body section adjacent the first rim and a second body section adjacent the second rim, wherein a plane tangent to the jacket wall of the first body section intersects the longitudinal axis;

inserting the length of tubular spacer between between the bone parts to be connected; and

applying a compression force to the tubular spacer positioned between the two bone parts.

22 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of providing a length of tubular spacer comprises:

providing cylindrical tubular jacket material;

cutting the cylindrical tubular jacket material to said length; and

expanding or narrowing the first and second ends of the tubular tubual spacer to adjust to the bone parts being connected.

23 (Original). The method according to claim 21, comprising a step of filing the spacer with bone chips or artificial material.

24 (Original). A kit for repairing bones, the kit comprising:

- cylindrical tubular jacket material;
- one or more abutment plates;
- a mandrel having a tapered insertion section for expanding the end of a section of cylindrical tubular jacket material; and
- a hollow die having a tapered section for narrowing the end of a section of cylindrical tubular jacket material.

25 (New). A spacer for bone defects comprising a tubular body having a first end, a first rim at the first end, a second end, a second rim at the second end, a longitudinal axis, a perimeter defining a jacket wall extending in the direction of the axis, a first body section adjacent the first rim and a second body section adjacent the second rim, wherein a plane tangent to the jacket wall of the first body section intersects the longitudinal axis, the spacer being manufactured by a method comprising:

- providing a cylindrical body having open ends, each end having a rim; and
- modifying at least one end of the cylindrical body to change its cross sectional area.